



Application No. 10/772,267  
Docket No. 740756-2708

HW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: )  
Shunpei YAMAZAKI ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Serial No. 10/772,267 ) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
Filed: February 6, 2004 )  
For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING )  
DEVICE ) Confirmation No. 4444

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

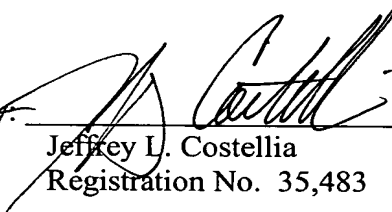
Enclosed is a copy of a partial translation of the International Search Report of the counterpart PCT Application No. PCT/JP2004/000932 dated April 6, 2004 together with the references cited therein.

Additionally, please note that WO 02-40742 is in the same family as EP 1 340 838 A1, (JP 2002-1514780) and U.S. 2004/0050685. Also, JP 2003-347284 is in the same family as U.S. 2004/75396.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (740756-2708)

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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Jeffrey L. Costellia  
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004-2128  
Telephone: (202) 585-8000



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/772,267
				Filing Date	February 6, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Shunpei YAMAZAKI
				Art Unit	Not yet assigned
				Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	740756-2708

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-2004/0050685 A1	03-18-2004	Yara et al.	
		US-2004/0075396 A1	04-22-2004	Okumura et al.	
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
		EP 1 340 838 A1	09-03-2003	Yara et al.		Full
		JP 07-024579	01-27-1995	Inoue		Abstract
		JP 11-340129	12-10-1999	Seki et al.		Abstract
		JP 2002-066391	03-05-2002	Shigemori et al.		Abstract
		JP 2002-237480	08-23-2002	Shimonishi et al.		Abstract
		JP 2003-017413	01-17-2003	Ishibashi et al.		Abstract
		JP 2003-311197	11-05-2003	Harai		Abstract
		JP 2003-347284	12-05-2003	Yashiro et al.		Abstract
		WO 02/40742 A1	05-23-2002	Yara et al.		Abstract

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT DATED APRIL 6, 2004 OF PCT/JP2004/000932	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.